

Shook Hardy Nabs Life Sciences Trial Pro From Hollingsworth

By **McCord Pagan**

Law360, New York (August 10, 2017, 5:43 PM EDT) -- Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP has hired a Hollingsworth LLP trial attorney fresh off a jury win for DynCorp as a partner in its office in Washington, D.C., the firm announced Wednesday.

Buffy J. Mims, a trial attorney with years of defense experience in product liability and mass torts, has joined the pharmaceutical and medical device litigation division at Shook Hardy. Mims in April was on the Hollingsworth team that guided a favorable jury verdict for DynCorp over herbicide poisoning liability claims.



Buffy Mims

For Mims, the move was a natural one, as Shook Hardy combines a deep trial bench with strength in the life sciences.

"I was attracted to Shook's premiere trial capabilities in a wide variety of industries," Mims said in a statement announcing the hire. "I look forward to collaborating with some of the nation's most respected trial attorneys."

Phil S. Goldberg, who leads Shook Hardy's D.C. office, said the addition of Mims speaks to the success of the firm in attracting and retaining talent.

"Clients turn to Shook for our unparalleled depth of highly skilled trial attorneys, and Buffy helps us further that reputation in D.C.," the statement said. "Buffy is entrenched in the community, which we recognize and value."

In addition to the DynCorp win in April, Mims also helped secure a victory for Novartis in a 2014 North Carolina trial on adequate warning claims for bone drugs Zometa and Aredia.

"Products combines both finance and the law," Mims said in a phone interview Thursday. "You have a lot of medical issues, technical issues, scientific issues, [you] have to get the jury to understand all issues in the case to get them to a well-reasoned decision."

Alicia Donahue, chair of Shook Hardy's pharmaceutical and medical device litigation division, said Mims' expertise in life sciences and trial defense, as well as her focus on diversity, made the partner a good fit and furthers the firm's goals.

“I think it's important that all kinds of lawyers are integrated into leadership, management, client representation aspects of our law firm, of Shook,” Donahue said. “I think that’s what our clients want and expect of us, and it is a standard that we always set for ourselves.”

Mims also advises clients on Food and Drug Administration rule compliance, False Claims Act defense and even commercial real estate.

Before joining Hollingsworth in 2004, where she made partner in 2011, Mims worked on campaign finance investigations and spent four years at Arnold & Porter on litigation for recalled diet drug fen-phen and for Philip Morris, though not on the tobacco companies’ product liability issues.

From 2007 until 2015, she did pro bono work for the Children’s Law Center in Washington, D.C., mostly representing children in custody cases, and since 2015 has served on the D.C. Board on Professional Responsibility, advising on claims of attorney misconduct.

At Hollingsworth, Mims helped recruit candidates as the firm’s diversity chair. She says Shook Hardy’s focus on a wide field of lawyers was a factor in her move.

Shook Hardy is on Working Mother magazine's 2017 list of “50 Best Law Firms for Women,” and it was named one of the top 25 law firms for diversity by Vault. Madeleine McDonough became the firm's first female chair in January.

“I was very impressed with what they have done in the profession in terms of advancing diversity,” Mims said. “Shook has taken a number of steps to advance diversity across the board, which is of course important to me and which I found very impressive.”

Mims received her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1996 and her undergraduate degree from Temple University in 1993.

--Editing by Richard McVay and Sara Ziegler.